

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) A gas bag restraint device comprising  
a gas bag module which has a gas bag (3) and a covering cap (9)  
tearing open on inflation of said gas bag (3),  
said covering cap (9) covering a ring-shaped outlet opening (18) for  
said gas bag (3) and having a central section (46), which in an opened state of said  
gas bag module is surrounded by said outlet opening (18),  
said central section (46) being delimited from radially outwardly  
adjoining sections (44) of said covering cap (9) by a ring-shaped, peripherally closed  
tear line (48) and being at least partially covered on the outside by a separate plaque  
piece (60), said tear line adjoining an inner edge of said outlet opening (18), and  
said plaque piece (60) fastening said central section (46) and  
preventing said central section (46) from moving freely when the covering cap (9)  
opens, wherein said central section (46) has a mounting opening (62) for the plaque  
piece (60) and can be placed onto the plaque piece (60) from above such that an  
inner edge of the central section (46) snaps in place underneath a laterally projecting  
edge (66) of the plaque piece (60).

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) The gas bag restraint device according to claim 1, wherein said tear line (48) defines said inner edge of said outlet opening (18).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The gas bag restraint device according to claim 1, wherein said central section (46) is constructed so as to be rigid.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) The gas bag restraint device according to claim 1, wherein said tear line (48) immediately adjoins an outer edge (66) of said plaque piece (60).

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The gas bag restraint device according to claim 1, wherein said plaque piece (60) has a depression (80) at its rear side, into which a bead-like extension (70) of said central section (46) projects.

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A gas bag restraint device comprising a gas bag module which has a gas bag (3) and a covering cap (9) tearing open on inflation of said gas bag (3).

said covering cap (9) covering a ring-shaped outlet opening (18) for said gas bag (3) and having a central section (46), which in an opened state of said gas bag module is surrounded by said outlet opening (18),

said central section (46) being delimited from radially outwardly adjoining sections (44) of said covering cap (9) by a ring-shaped, peripherally closed tear line (48) and being at least partially covered on the outside by a separate plaque piece (60), said tear line adjoining an inner edge of said outlet opening (18), and

said plaque piece (60) fastening said central section (46) and preventing said central section (46) from moving freely when the covering cap (9) opens, wherein said central section (46) has a mounting opening (62) for the plaque piece (60) and can be placed onto the plaque piece (60) from above such that an inner edge of the central section (46) snaps in place underneath a laterally projecting edge (66) of the plaque piece (60). ~~The gas bag restraint device according to claim 4,~~ wherein said covering cap (9) adjoins said plaque piece (60) externally in a substantially flush manner.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) The gas bag restraint device according to claim 1, wherein said tear line (48) is defined by a rear groove.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The gas bag restraint device according to claim 1, wherein said central section (46) has an inner edge positioned adjacent said plaque piece (60), said inner edge being ~~prevent~~ prevented from moving freely away from said plaque piece (60) when the covering cap (9) opens.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) The gas bag restraint device according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said central section (46) is located radially outward in a lateral direction from said plaque piece (60).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) The gas bag restraint device according to claim 1, wherein said sections (44) and said central section (46) are formed of one piece before said covering cap (9) opens.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) The gas bag restraint device according to claim 1, wherein said central section (46) is permanently fastened to said plaque piece (60) by a snap connection.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) A gas bag restraint device comprising:  
a gas bag module having a gas bag (3); and  
a covering cap (9), said covering cap (9) tearing open upon inflation of said gas bag (3), said covering cap (9) covering a ring-shaped outlet opening (18) for said gas bag (3), said covering cap (9) having a central section (46), said central section (46) being surrounded by said outlet opening (18) when said gas bag module is in an opened state, said central section (46) being delimited from adjoining sections (44) of said covering cap (9) by a ring-shaped, peripherally closed tear line (48), said sections (44) being located radially outward in a lateral direction from said central section (46), said tear line (48) adjoining an inner edge of said outlet opening (18), and said central section (46) being fastened to said plaque piece (60) such that

said central section (46) is prevented from moving freely away from said plaque piece (60) when the covering cap (9) opens.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) The gas bag restraint device according to claim 15, wherein said central section (46) has an inner edge positioned adjacent said plaque piece (60), said inner edge being prevent from moving freely away from said plaque piece (60) when the covering cap (9) opens.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) The gas bag restraint device according to claim 15, wherein at least a portion of said central section (46) is located radially outward in a lateral direction from said plaque piece (60).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) The gas bag restraint device according to claim 15, wherein said sections (44) and said central section (46) are formed of one piece before said covering cap (9) opens.